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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Race to the Top - District Level Applications

Last summer the U.S. Department of Education (USED) announced the availability of \$400 million for Race to the Top grants for local school districts. The grants are intended to support school districts in implementing local reforms that will personalize learning, close achievement gaps and take full advantage of 21st century tools that prepare each student for college and their careers. The four-year awards will range from \$5 million to \$40 million, depending on the population of students served through the plan. The USED is expecting to make 15-25 awards.

Part of the application process requires each local district included in an application to provide its State Education Agency (SEA) at least 10 business days to comment on the district's application and submit as part of its application, a) the SEA's comments, or if the SEA declined to comment, evidence that the district offered the SEA 10 business days to comment, and b) the district's response to the SEA's comments (optional).

In an August 30, 2011 e-blast, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) shared its process for completing the SEA review. As a reminder, MDE needs to receive district applications by October 16, 2012. If your district is submitting an application for the Race to the Top grants, your application should be emailed to Ryan Starkweather no later than October 16, 2012. Please send your application to him at: starkweatherr1@michigan.gov. We look forward to reviewing district applications.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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